

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 82, Number 68

Yet another bad hair day since 1911

Wednesday, February 10, 1993

University tuition to rise slightly

Coalition of students suspect big hikes might be in the works

BY DAVE LEY

Tuition fees in universities will be going up 1.9 per cent according to the Québec minister for higher education, Lucienne Robillard.

Robillard made the announcement during a speech to the young Liberals of Québec on Sunday.

Robillard's statement rejects the proposal of the ministry of finance, which had proposed raising tuition to the Canadian average of \$2250 a year. The average tuition in Québec is now \$1487.

The ministry of finance's proposal was one of the proposals in a report entitled "Living Within Our Means," which made a number of proposals to deal with Québec's fiscal crisis. Québec's deficit is rising over \$4 billion for the year. The report suggested higher tuition fees for universities and user fees for the health care system.

"The [ministry of finance's] report was just a suggestion," said

Pierre Villeneuve, the political attaché for Robillard. "The report is not an official government position and Madame Robillard will be keeping to her decision last year to only raise tuition by the rate of the Consumer Price Index."

Still, the proposals from the ministry of finance were enough to scare many Québec student associations.

The proposal to raise tuition to \$2250 a year propelled the creation of an impromptu coalition between the student associations of McGill, Université de Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), and Université Laval.

"The [four student associations] are issuing a common declaration opposing any tuition increases until a full study has been done on the effects and student debt load increases of the last tuition hike," said Jeff Percival, vp external for McGill's Students' Society. "We're saying 'fuck you', don't put tuition fees up if you don't also study its

effects."

Claude Rioux, secretary for external affairs at the student association at UQAM, said that the government had promised to do a study on the effect of the last round of tuition fee increases on the economic and social position of students. He said that the last round of increases have not helped the problem of university funding.

Tuition has risen 180 per cent since 1989.

"There must be a moratorium on further tuition increases until a solution is found to the problem of university funding," said Rioux. "Education must be a priority."

Rioux also said that there was a lot of confusion surrounding possible fee increases.

"We are receiving contradictory statements," said Rioux. "First the ministry of finance says tuition should go up to the Canadian average, the Robillard says it will stay constant."



Where's Waldo?

Serge Charlebois, president of le Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), a major Québec student federation, suggested that there's a conflict between Daniel Johnson, president of the treasury

council, and Robillard.

"There's a war [between the two departments]," said Charlebois. "And students must express themselves because Robillard is not strong enough."

Student services budget approved

Student vote is split

BY JONATHAN DESBARATS

Student representatives protested McGill's low contribution to student services at a meeting to last week. The official purpose of the meeting of the Committee for the Co-ordination of Student Services (CCSS) was to vote on the proposed student services budget for next year, but students planned to send a different message to the board of governors.

"The university should contribute more to building costs through the operating budget," said Bob Collins, Post Graduate Students' Society rep. Collins noted that McGill placed last in a recent *Maclean's* rating, and is the only university in Québec where students pay for building costs.

The CCSS is an advisory committee made up of equal numbers of staff and students. Its function is to advise Dean of Students Irwin Gopnik on matters concerning student services, and to vote on the proposed student services budget. Dean Gopnik makes the final recommendation to Senate and the Board of Governors.

The majority of students attending last week's meeting had planned to abstain from the vote to get their message to the board of governors.

But administrators were disappointed with the students' decision, and encouraged students not to abstain. Administrators said the



committee had been "betrayed", and that abstention was a "cowardly cop-out". They argued that approval of the budget and McGill's contribution to Student Services should be addressed as separate questions.

"The question of McGill's low *Maclean's* ranking doesn't bother me at all. My consideration is that McGill has a certain structure and how do we best provide student

services within that structure," said Associate Dean of Arts Jagdish Handa.

Bob Collins felt the administration's comments were regrettable.

"There was no opposition to the budget," said Collins "But we have very few allies available to us to lobby the Board of Governors. This is one way we thought we could."

Six out of nine student representatives were swayed under

pressure by the administration. The sentiment among students who approved the budget was that the message got through.

"The administration understood the message we were trying to send, but felt that it was not appropriate at that time," said Elaine Perry, president of the MacDonald College Students' Society.

The three students who abstained were the Post Graduate

Students' Society rep, the Students' Society rep, and the McGill Association of Continuing Education Students rep. These three represent the bulk of the student population at McGill.

"The staff appealed to our sensibilities, and the students crumbled," said Jason Prince, Students' Society president. "They used the oldest tactics in the book. We didn't want to fight, we didn't want to say 'no more fee increase', we wanted to abstain and retain our solidarity."

The question of McGill's contribution to student services will be addressed at a separate meeting of the CCSS in March.

The fact that there was no student opposition to the student services budget is something of a breakthrough. The CCSS has been riddled with disputes between staff and students in past years.

Last year student representatives voted against the student services budget, and walked out of Senate when it was approved. Students complained they had not been given detailed budget information, and that administrators had not taken their recommendations seriously.

Some of the same complaints were echoed among student representatives on the committee earlier this year, but the general consensus among staff and students on the committee is that the process of communication has enormously improved.

Tioxide flies south

Environmental menace pulls the ol' dump and run

BY AUBREY COHEN

ONE OF THE WORST polluters in Quebec has decided to leave the province. Tioxide Canada has announced that they will be abandoning one phase of their operations in Quebec in 1994. Tioxide will be investing in 50 per cent of the production of a plant in Louisiana and are also planning to expand output in Europe.

"They believe that they have been singled out, and that they have acted in good faith," said Daniel Green, of the environmental group Société pour Viancre la Pollution (SVP). "Tioxide is trying to justify the unjustifiable."

The "unjustifiable" is that Tioxide has been planning to transfer operations to Europe for three years now. Green believes it would not have been good for their reputation if Tioxide had announced cuts to Canadian operations three years ago, in favour of the European market.

Tioxide produces titanium pigment at a plant in Tracy, Quebec. As a result of this production, 120 to 150 tones of sulfuric acid are dumped into the St. Lawrence river every day.

According to Green, there are two phases to production of the pigment, the "black" and "white" phases. It is in the black phase that the acid is released. Production for this phase will be carried out by another plant in Louisiana, while the white phase will still continue in Quebec for the time being.

Quebec Environment Minister Pierre Paradis, ordered Tioxide to shut down production at the Tracy plant. By appealing this order, Tioxide managed to maintain operations at the plant.

There are currently two other court cases, besides the appeal, involving Tioxide. The Quebec government is prosecuting Tioxide for not honouring its own cleanup plan and the federal government is prosecuting Tioxide for six counts of violating the Canadian Fisheries

Act.

Tioxide announced that they were building a new plant in Bécancour to replace the Tracy plant. But Daniel Green argued that Tioxide could have made the Tracy plant non-polluting for less than they were spending on the new plant.

"I never believed the Bécancour plant would open, it didn't make sense economically," he said.

Since the announcement that they would be cutting Canadian production, Tioxide has suspended plans for the Bécancour plant.

Tioxide claims they have already spent \$35 million on the Bécancour site. A Radio Canada report disputed this figure, suggesting that Tioxide has only spent \$2 million.

Eve Corriveau, of the Québec Environmental center (a public interest environmental group) was not sure what the real situation at Bécancour.

"I don't know. I have heard all kinds of stories," he said.

Corriveau said Tioxide has given two explanations for the move. They don't believe Canada is a good investment in terms of the overall market context, and they are upset with tough environmental regulations.

"They are frustrated about being prosecuted under the Canadian Fisheries Act," noted Corriveau. He called Tioxide's move "typical economic blackmail."

Quebec discouraging business?

European environmental laws are no more conducive towards Tioxide. The difference in Europe is that Tioxide actually followed its cleanup plan there. They submitted a five year plan in mid 1985 in accordance with the European Community's 1978 environmental legislation.

Corriveau believes that the Tioxide situation sends out mixed



"The sky is certainly a beautiful blue today, isn't it, Miss Simkins? Check with production and see if something is wrong."

messages. In allowing companies to police themselves during their five year cleanup period and then granting extensions, he said that the government has opened the door for more companies to not honour their plans.

"What Tioxide has done might be repeated," said Corriveau.

Sylvie Marier, press attaché for Québec Environment Minister Pierre Paradis, said that, "When a company signs an agreement with a minister, they want to respect that agreement."

She pointed out that the only other problematic firm has been Kronos Canada and that they are

now cooperating with the government.

"In the case of Kronos, we had Mr. Paradis sign an ordinance and they have respected it," said Marier.

Corriveau said the prosecution of Tioxide under the Canadian Fisheries Act is, "a clear indication from Environment Canada that companies will have to take responsibility for their pollution." He noted that regulations under the Fisheries Act have not changed, but enforcement has been lacking.

Both Green and Corriveau said that they believe Tioxide is trying to send the message that Quebec environmental laws are scaring away

business and jobs.

"Their strategy has backfired," said Green, indicating that the public has reacted to the announcement negatively towards Tioxide, and not the government.

Marier agreed with Green. She said, "Tioxide is not an example for other firms. We hope that we don't have another enterprise like Tioxide."

As with the last time they were contacted by *The Daily*, Tioxide had no comment on the situation. When a Tioxide secretary found out another article was being written about them, she said, "not more bad news, I hope."



events

Inter-Faith Dialogue: student discussion on "Views of God". Birks Bldg, 3250 University, Drop-In Centre, Room 104. Info: 398-4104

Chief Justice Antonio Lamer will be McGill's guest in the Moot Court Room of the Faculty of Law, 12:30.

Arnoldo Rafael Cruz Lopez, Salvadorean university student and representative of the General Association of University Students of El Salvador, will give a talk on Student Activism in the South. 8:15 pm, 1445 de Maisonneuve O. room H-521.

McGill Improv at the Alley. Tonight. 7:30 pm. Free.

The McGill Art History Students Association presents the **3rd Annual Student Art Exhibition**, to be held in the ballroom of the Shatner building, 3480

McTavish. 10 a.m. to 5 pm.

Outing Club meeting at 7:30 in Leacock 26.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee is organizing a three day hunger strike Feb. 10, 11, and 12 in rm 107/108 to protest Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The McGill Medical Fraternity is meeting at 2 pm. in Union 302. All remaining activities for this year will be discussed.

Film society movies this week.

Feb 11 - no screening
Feb 12 - Ski night double feature: "Steeper and Deeper" and "Her Majesty's Secret Service, union caf. 7 pm.
Feb 13 - "The Princess Bride", FDA 7:30 pm.

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Drug company gives handouts to AIDS groups

BY KATIE PICKLES

A drug company's new marketing strategy is proving to be a windfall for Montréal community groups dealing with people with AIDS.

Burroughs Wellcome, the multinational drug company responsible for the manufacture of AZT—a drug helpful in extending the life expectancy of HIV positive people—is allocating 25 per cent per year from sales of AZT per year to such organizations. The sales from AZT last year amounted to roughly 11 million dollars.

"We work with our company's world plan, which involves a global policy that goes beyond the traditional sponsorship of AIDS, such as working with doctors, to support a non-traditional marketing mix," said Russ Reed of Burroughs Wellcome.

The initiative for Burroughs Wellcome's Positive Action programme comes from the multinational's head office in London.

"The Wellcome Trust decided that it's one thing to market a brand of AZT and extend lives of people. But we decided to build a plan that acknowledges AIDS and care, with a commitment to working on issues," said Reed.

"Drug companies make a lot of money and should help those involved in the fight against AIDS. They want to be more active and put on a human face. They're starting to realize that they have an image to sell," said Patrice Allard at Comité SIDA Aide de Montréal.

"They are paying for our newsletters—one in French and one in English—as well as providing funds for other services," said Allard.

"We do put in a free ad for them, but the editorial line in the newsletters is free—otherwise we wouldn't accept the money," he said.

Allard hopes that in the future drug companies will become more involved in the support of those affected by AIDS.

Burroughs Wellcome benefits from the plan in that it gives them an edge over their competitors. The company has been using the program to convince provincial governments to buy AZT from them rather than from generic producers, said Reed.

"We went to the government and said 'Stick with us. See our plan in effect,'" said Reed.

Burroughs Wellcome has given AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM) a "small amount of under ten thousand dollars for a fund-raiser, not a lot yet," said Jack Newman of the fundraising group.

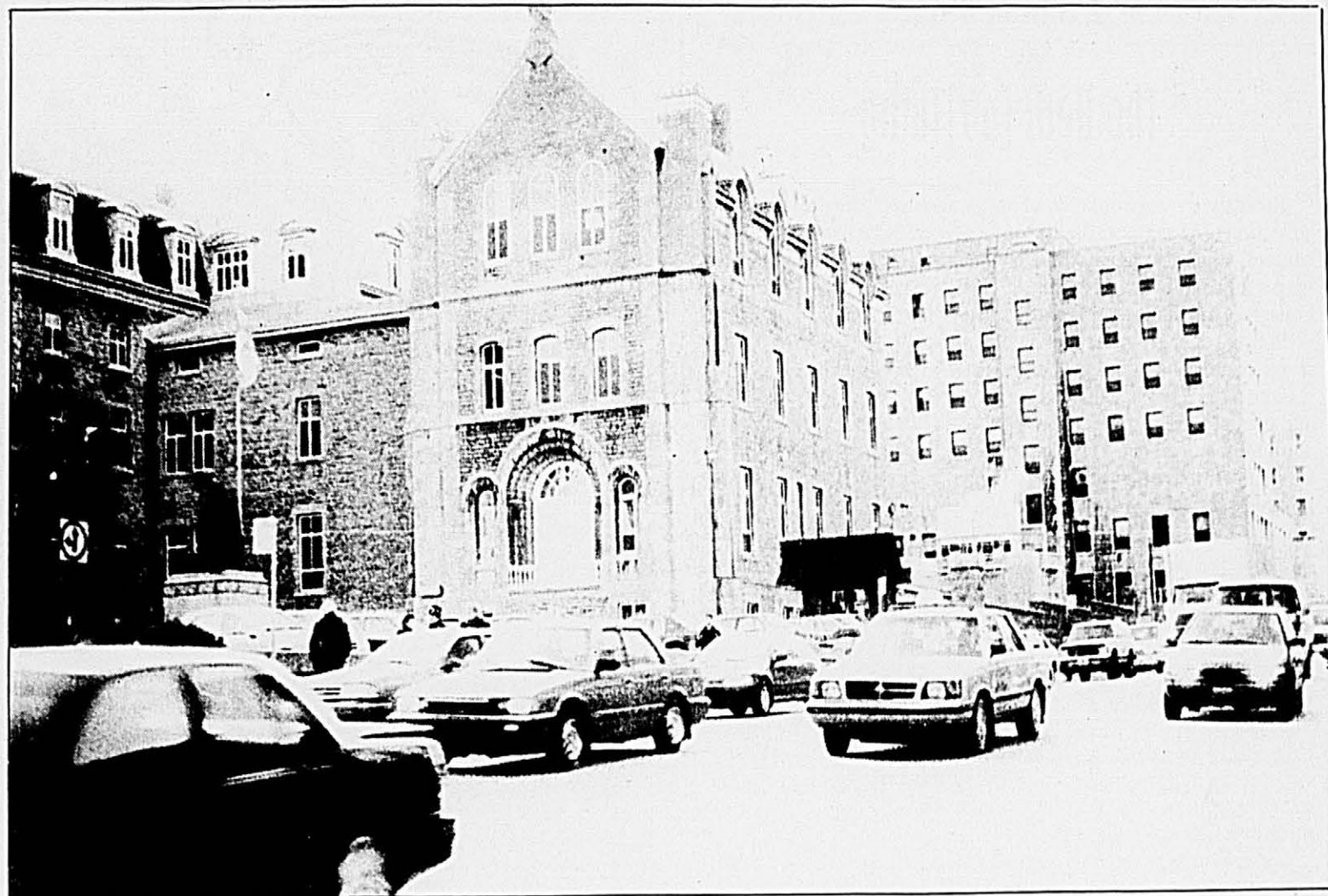
Newman thinks that drug companies need a "kick in the butt."

"They're the ones making the money. They need to put more back into the community," he said.

ACCM has received no funding from government sources during its five year history.

"We are an English organization and the government told us that we duplicate services," said Newman. "We've been working on a shoestring. Private fundraising, drive and conviction, and a fight for the cause is what keeps us going."

Controversy over Hôtel Dieu move



Hôtel Dieu

DAILY PHOTO BY TARA CHARRAN

BY PAT HAREWOOD

The proposed move of the Hôtel Dieu hospital to Rivière des Prairies will cause a shortage of services for people with AIDS in downtown Montréal, say critics of the move.

Situated in downtown Montreal, the hospital houses a clinic for people with AIDS and is one of five in the Montreal area specializing in AIDS research. Most of the people attending the clinic live downtown. The hospital treats an average of 60 people with AIDS per week but only 15 of the hospital's 520 beds are allocated to AIDS patients.

The move is scheduled to be complete by 1997. No land site has been chosen as yet.

Several coalitions have formed in opposition to the move. Douglas

Buckley, a member of Act Up Montréal, questions the motives behind the move.

Since most of the patients live in the downtown area, the relocation of the hospital to the suburbs will inconvenience the patients who will probably be forced to move closer to the hospital where they can receive the medical attention they require. As a result, patients will be isolated from family and friends.

According to Buckley, the government's aim is to create a Sidatorium, a secluded place where people with AIDS will be left "to go and die".

Daniel Bégin, system co-ordinator of communications at the Hôtel Dieu hospital, says that there is a definite need for a "family hospital" in Rivière des Prairies. However, he does not

believe that the Hôtel Dieu hospital is the answer.

Hôtel Dieu specializes in AIDS research and treats people with AIDS. What Rivière des Prairies needs is a hospital that specializes in pediatric services with approximately 210 beds.

Bégin says that the government is making a "political move" on the part of Marc-Yvan Côté, Minister of Health.

The ministry of health has given the \$260 million project to build the new hospital to J. E. Verreault Ltd. and Roche Ltd. Jean-Marie Verreault, President of J. E. Verreault Ltd. and Émile Langlois, President of Roche Ltd. both live in Côté's riding. Both are financial supporters of the Québec Liberal party. Together, they have contrib-

uted a total of \$14 000 over the past three years.

Paul André Terreault, chief architect of the project, has contributed \$6260 to the Liberals over the past three years.

Marie Claire Oulette, spokesperson for Côté, denies that monetary contributions influenced who was chosen for the project. She said there is a need for the hospital and the need is being fulfilled.

The departure of Hôtel Dieu will leave Montréal with a shortage of hospital beds for people with AIDS. At the moment, Montréal provides only 92 beds for people with AIDS.

No more beds than are already given at present will be provided for people with AIDS. No housing arrangements or transportation services will be provided.

Taylor and Tully denied supervisory rights

BY DAN ROBINS

Graduate students entering the department of political science will no longer be able to have professors James Tully or Charles Taylor as their thesis supervisors.

The political science department faculty decided in a mail-in secret ballot which finished on 20 January to deny the two professors supervisory rights.

Taylor and Tully switched to the philosophy department from political science last spring. Until the vote, however, they had kept the right to supervise political science doctoral students.

The vote does not affect the status of grad students already doing their theses with Taylor or Tully.

The move has left both professors surprised and dismayed.

"I was disappointed," said Tully.

"I must say I find it very hard to understand," said Taylor. "It seems to go against everything a university stands for."

Professor Richard Schultz said the decision "was based on their own statements in spring that they no longer saw themselves as political scientists. How can we have non-political scientists routinely supervising doctoral students?"

When the professors moved to philosophy, they said they hoped to continue supervising political science grads.

They also said they wanted to pursue cross-disciplinary work in social theory. Now, said Taylor, that will be much harder.

"I think it's a terrible blow for the whole project of collaboration across the disciplines in social theory," he said.

The decision-making process is itself mysterious. No one the *Daily* spoke to was sure of the rules under which the decision was taken.

The December meeting at which it was decided to have the vote was only open to faculty members. Several professors who attended the meeting refused to discuss its details with the *Daily*.

"I wouldn't find it helpful to provide you with information that would be inappropriate at this juncture," said departmental chair Jerome Black.

But Schultz said the initiative "emerged" from the department's Graduate Committee, which wanted to determine the status of the two professors. The Graduate Committee is chaired by professor Elizabeth Gidengil, who was not available for comment.

Taylor and Tully were not themselves present at the meeting, nor were they able to vote—because, according to Schultz, "They are not members of the department."

Tully disagreed. "That wasn't my understanding of our relationship with the department," he said.

When contacted by the *Daily* last week, Taylor had not yet been officially informed of the decision—he hadn't even been told the vote was taking place, he said. Tully said he had been notified.

Everyone the *Daily* spoke to agreed it was unprecedented for a department's faculty to vote to suspend the rights of individual professors.

"It's something that's new to my experience," said Black. "The whole situation is a bit unusual."

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

The Real [no]Thing.

Recently an acquaintance of mine admitted that he admired a collection of essays more for the bindings and design than for the actual content. Whether this is a reflection more of the quality of content than his personality, I don't know. But it seems part of a new spirit that has besieged Canadian campuses: the spirit of nothingness.

Was it a meagre generation ago that in 1968, the students of Paris revolted and took over their University and, for a brief breath of time, their society? They occupied government and university offices alike, and turned their student union into a democratic soviet dedicated to absolute freedom and absolute equality. This happened because the students of Paris believed modern French culture to be growing more hollow every day.

Now, in spite of the ignored work in current social activism of many students, our generation has received the label "X", signifying the unknown. Absence of meaning has become a centrally defining feature for those who wish to describe you and classify you in derogatory marketing terms.

Cynism in vogue as it is, youth's adherence to the principles of the vacuous comes at us from everywhere. Nothingness has been the source of the dramatic action in such young audience TV hits as *Beverly Hills 90210* or *Melrose Place* for over two years now. The two dimensionality gets shallower, when we hear of the empty, angsty teenagers who pound each other in high school hallways for a pair of shoes or a Chicago Bulls Cap.

Never to miss a new trend, Pepsi-Cola Inc. has found a way to bottle that sense of mis-direction and meaninglessness, and they are calling it New Clear Crystal Pepsi (or nuclear crystals pepsi). This existentialist nightmare as refreshing soft-drink is one of the bizarrest marketing ploys since Tiffany took to the shopping malls to go on to win the hearts of us all.

Twisted as it may be, you can't say that Pepsi don't got their fingers on the pulse of a generation. Their slogan is "You never seen a taste like this" — you might say they are selling the absence of Coke's "The Real Thing". In selling the sense of enigma, Pepsi has reinvented Cola, and given us something that no one could dislike: "nothing".

First they took out the sugar, then they took out the caffeine, now hey, they took out the cola, whoop dee doo, you got to hand it to the R and Department at Pepsi. Well, a friend of mine tried the stuff and all she said was, "It doesn't taste like Pepsi, it tastes like shit, what a rip-off." I'll drink to that! So let me be one of the first to point my finger at the C.E.O. of Pepsi-Cola Inc. and say: "The Emperor bears no cola."

Doug McDonald

letters

A good thrashing

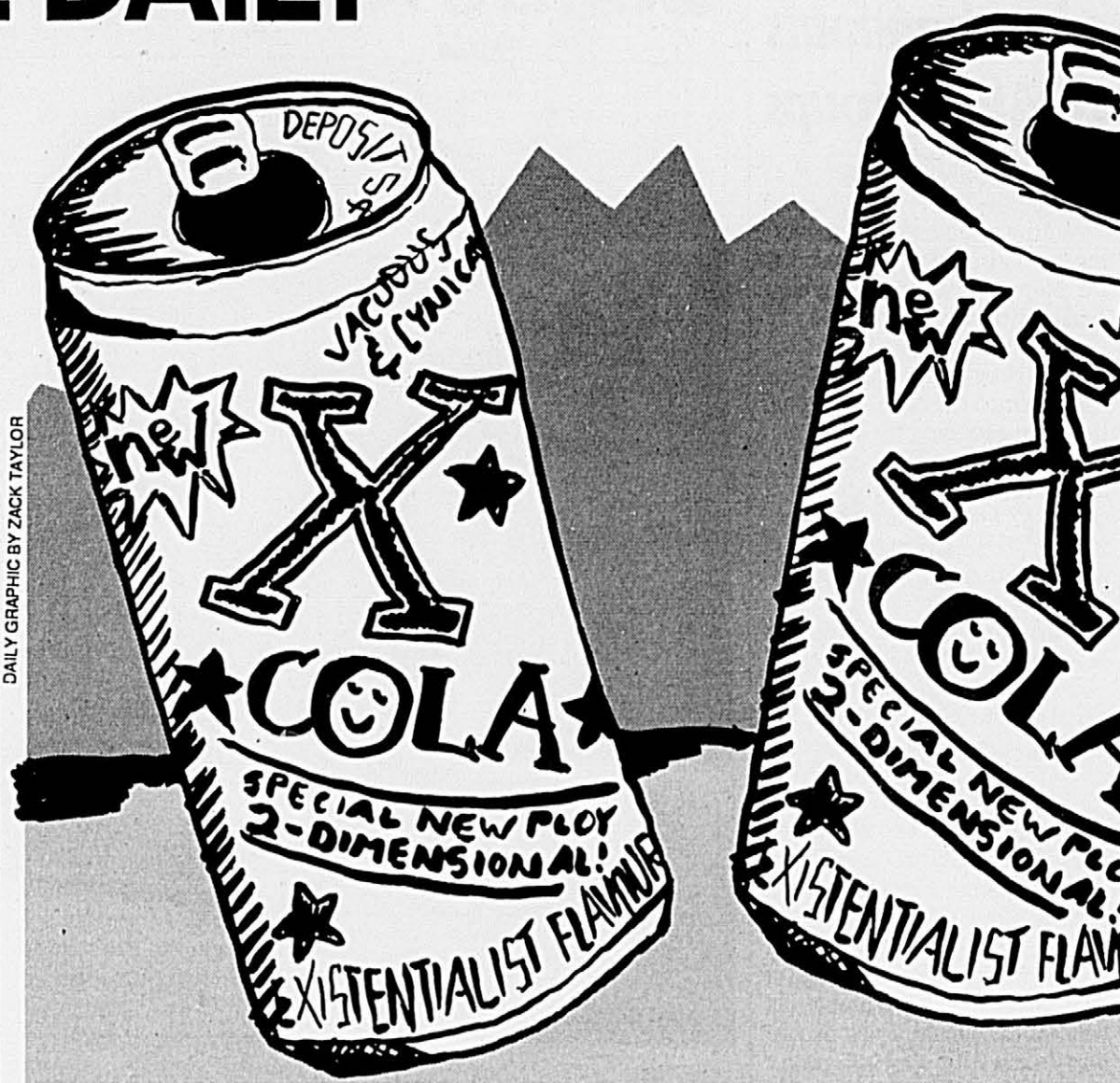
To the Daily:

re: Ian Hay's Hyde Park, February 3
Ian, your column was written in a rambling, sarcastic style that made it difficult to decipher exactly what arguments you were trying to get across. As far as I can make out, your primary justification for the deportation — without due legal process — of 415 Palestinians into an inhospitable environment is that had they simply been jailed, Israel would only be attacked for the conditions in its detention camps. That is, if you're going to be criticized no matter what you do, why not take the expedient route and drop all moral pretense.

This is a shallow, stupid argument. I'm not going to take issue with your

slightly bizarre theories about the United Nations — heck, it would probably do the *Daily* good to be exposed to some right-wing paranoia once in a while. But look at what you're saying here: you're saying that if a government's secret service decides independently that certain citizens are "criminal and seditious elements," those people can then be immediately stripped of any rights they once had, without the benefit of a defense. This is a totalitarian policy which can't be condoned anywhere, Ian, even if one believes that the government in question has been unfairly criticized and attacked by the rest of the world for the past 25 years (a highly dubious claim to make about Israel in the first place).

I suspect that this letter will be



... letters

accompanied by numerous others, all angry over your peculiar line of reasoning. You're going to get a good thrashing, and I hope you take it seriously. You've earned it.

Jacob Pendergrast
U2, History and Philosophy of
Medicine

Say no to Church of Christ

To the Daily:

re: "Fanatical Cult Operating in Montreal" (Feb. 3)

As the Communications leader of McGill Christian Fellowship, I would like to make one thing clear. MCF has no association with the Church of Christ that was described in the article.

It's often convenient to amalgamate groups of people under one title so that our minds can condense these nicely packaged impressions. But, like so many other terms, Christianity necessarily needs to be sought out and interpreted for oneself to gain the purest understanding. There are crucial distinctions between the Christianity in which we partake as members of the body of Christ, and the practices that these people promote as members of the Church of Christ.

Certain elements mentioned about the Church of Christ seem similar on one level to those of McGill Christian Fellowship, namely attendance of

Sunday services, inquiry and interpretation of the Bible, and evangelism. But at all other levels, such as attitude toward prayer, respect for free will, and some basic application of biblical scripture, we do not consent to the practices of the Church of Christ. Speaking from personal experience, their methods of worship foster great skepticism in my heart.

I agree with Darren Becker that experiences with groups such as the Church of Christ need to be shared with others. I encourage anyone who is searching for some sort of spiritual life to explore and ask questions of anything and everything that he or she gets involved with — particularly established groups.

Spiritual commitment can bring life-long impact, and for this reason, it will likely take more than a couple of months, or even years to discern which path is the truth. Press on!

Tien Lee
East Asian Studies, U2

More to fear than fear...

To the Daily:

Apparently there's more to fear than fear itself, the worse fear being misquotes and printing glitches. Maybe there is a curse or a gremlin loose somewhere having anything to do with Mr. Colgrass's material. The letter from me

as printed in Monday's *Daily* is not word for word verbatim when it comes to the famous historic declaration of FDR: "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..."

(A copy of my earlier letter as enclosed here, and you can verify with my original submission, had accurately cited FDR's statement in his inauguration speech).

So somewhere on the way during printing it came out as: "...is fear yourself...". This grave mistake only compounded the problem even more in trying to get to the root of historical accuracy, as my letter strived to be, and wrecked the factual basis of the correction as it was intended.

Maybe we'll just forget about the whole thing. It's not doing any good to place blame, even though an inaccurate and unfair impression has been cast on my understanding and recall of American history, as would by the readers in judging my letter as printed.

Could you please kindly point out the error in typesetting or printing or wherever, if and when people point out or write in to indicate the perceived error. I can only defend myself here: "It's not my fault, someone else goofed!!!!!!!"

Jason Pan
Grad. Studies, Earth and
Planetary Sciences

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



SINCE 1911

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Getting around
on the slopes
of Mount
Royal

ACCESSIBILITY AT MCGILL

T

he office of Services for Disabled Students is on the third floor of the Powell Student Services building. The Powell building has no elevator.

The administration has considered moving the office to an accessible location, but Dean of Students Irwin Gopnik has blocked such a move because he wants to keep all student services together, said Aubrey Kassirer of Access McGill, an organization for students with disabilities.

In fact, all of the student services, with the exception of Student Health Service (which is on the first floor), are not accessible to those students who cannot climb stairs. The possibility of installing an elevator in the Powell building has been considered, but nothing has been done yet.

The reason for this is not a lack of funding. McGill recently received a \$15.2 million grant from the Quebec government for building alterations, of which \$2.6 million has been specifically earmarked for improving accessibility.

The Joint Senate Board of Governors Committee for Persons with Disabilities is willing to allocate funding for putting an elevator in the Powell building.

"The problem is that the other student services are not willing to give up space for an elevator," said Kassirer. Other possibilities, including installing an elevator along the outside of the building, are being considered. However, student services remain inaccessible to wheelchair using students.

McGill has plans in the works for a new student services building. This building is not expected in the near future, however, as it is not at the top of the list of priorities for new construction.

"It is a symbol to fight on," said Nissim Louis, a wheelchair using student.

"McGill has served my needs quite adequately, but there is still a lot they need to do."

Shuttles and ramps

Peter Cooperman, coordinator of the office of Services for Disabled Students said that despite some gaps, McGill's services for disabled students were generally adequate.

"McGill is doing a good job overall," said Cooperman.

McGill provides a shuttle bus service to help disabled students get around campus. The service runs from 8h to 18h.

Paul Hamilton, a disabled McGill student, complained of the shuttle's limited hours.

"I can not study late at the library," said Hamilton.

Furthermore, the bus only travels as far as Peel and Sherbrooke. This inhibits sight and mobility impaired students from getting to and from the metro safely.



Nissim Lewis — Service of Accessibility

QUESTION:

How do you get to the office of Services for Disabled Students if you use a wheelchair?

ANSWER:

You can't — unless you can get someone to carry you up the stairs.

BY AUBREY COHEN

There are no plans to improve the shuttle bus service hours and range. Cooperman said that his office conducted a survey and the majority of students were satisfied with the service as it was. "I haven't had any complaints," said Cooperman.

McGill has been primarily concerned with providing accessibility to class rooms and lecture halls. Now, almost all classes are accessible. There are also wheelchair accessible residence rooms and washrooms in Solin Hall and Royal Victoria College.

According to Kassirer, with the \$2.6 million, most of the top priorities on the access 'wish list' will be addressed this year.

"All these great changes are going to happen really fast," said Kassirer. The Quebec government has stipulated that the money is to be spent by December 31, 1993, as it is intended to jump start the economy.

In addition to the provincial money, the Senate committee has \$50 000 a year allo-

cated for improving access. There is also a fund which collects \$2 per student, per semester in order to improve services for disabled students. These services include the shuttle bus and special technology such as computers and other educational aids.

"Services and programs for expanding services have seen a lot of improvement, but there is still a need for more improvement," said Hamilton.

Kassirer worries that McGill does not make disabled students welcome. "McGill is having a difficult time showing itself to be a school that wants disabled students," said Kassirer.

Across the country

In the interest of seeing how McGill measures up, *The Daily* surveyed accessibility services at other Canadian universities.

The University of Toronto is in a similar situation to McGill. While many of their

older buildings are not yet accessible, Patricia Grant, director of special services at the university, said there has been "dramatic improvement in this area. Students of the school voted to pay \$30 a year each, for three years, to go towards improving campus accessibility."

The university also has a shuttle bus for disabled students. Their bus runs from 8h to 18h and provides door to door service as does the McGill bus. Unlike McGill, their bus has had trouble keeping up with demand and delays have resulted.

While McGill has focused attention on making all classes completely accessible, the U of T has had other priorities. "The major part of our work is in technology," said Grant. All of the student services at the university are accessible.

At Queen's University, only one building is completely inaccessible. There are, however, accessibility problems in many other buildings.

The major concern at Queens is getting around campus. Because there are few roads which connect up with the buildings on campus, a shuttle bus, like those at McGill and U of T, is not feasible. According to Alex Schumaker of the Queens special needs office, the best they can do to help campus transportation is to try and improve snow removal.

Queens also provides special educational equipment and modified residence rooms for disabled students. Their student services are accessible.

Across town, Concordia University, the situation is mixed. Because of the large number of small annex and rental buildings used by the university, it has been difficult to make all facilities accessible. With the addition of the new library building, the situation is improving.

Concordia also runs shuttle busses. Their arrangement is a little different from McGill or U of T. Their 3 buses running between the downtown and Loyola campuses are available for all students to use in addition to disabled students. Their bus also begins running at 8 a.m., but continues service until past 10 at night.

All student services at Concordia are fully accessible.

As facilities improve and McGill's reputation in terms of providing for disabled students improves, there will be added pressure on the university. More disabled students will choose to attend McGill and the services will have to expand to accommodate them.

For now, McGill seems to be focusing on the problem. With the provincial grant, many new improvements can be expected this year. Maybe even wheelchair using people will be someday be able to visit the office of Services for Disabled Students.

Theatre 1774 stands to measure

An interview with Theatre 1774

BY DAN MROZ

Theatre 1774 defies categorization. Over the past three years the Montreal company has produced shows that combine the talents of English and French theatre artists. Their first show, *Echo*, paired Ann Diamond's novel *A Nun's Diary* with francophone director Robert Lepage. *L'Affaire Tartuffe*, a bilingual script by Marianne Ackerman, explored the tensions between the English and French in Quebec prior to the American Revolution. 1774's third production, *Woman by a Window* cast three performers as different aspects of one woman.

Their latest production, a bare-bones take on Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, unites the key elements that characterize the company's work: language, politics, gender and religion.

Interviewed in their rehearsal space on St. Laurent, director Suzanne Lantagne and actor Daniel Giverin shed some light on the process behind this production.

As a francophone, how have you felt challenged in interpreting an English play?

Suzanne Lantagne: This is my second Shakespeare play, but my first in English. I admit that I was worried about the language, but after so many months you get to know the language very well and now during rehearsals, I forget that the play is in English because I know the text.

After a while I discovered that in English there is something more direct and more accurate about the language and I started to think along those lines. I discovered something very immediate in the language that I hadn't expected to find.

The words and images may be refined, but there is something very direct about them. You really have to know what you're saying, but when you do, you cannot get lost.

Because of this, the age of the play is unimportant to me. It is very relevant to our age in its content. The difficulty people have in living with their sexuality and the abuse of power that so often involves sexuality are the major elements of this story.

The play also explores the effects of moral tyranny. I think that all of these issues, which are still so much with us today, are very well illuminated by the play.

Have you been able to find these relevant elements in the text, or have you rearranged or re-claimed the story?

S.L.: Not reclaimed, no. We've tried to be as faithful to the play as we can. The text has been rearranged (by artistic director Marianne Ackerman) but the only cuts were made in roles that were easy to define with physical relationships. The physical part of performance is very important to me as a director and this gives us

room to work in that way.

Daniel Giverin: We're still working with Shakespeare's text, the language hasn't been updated or altered.

How do these changes affect your work as a performer?

D.G.: In many ways it clarifies it, because the character pursues fewer goals. It's easier to articulate what's going on. We've gotten rid of the sidetracks, but we're still left with so much.

You say your approach emphasizes the physical aspects of the acting. Can you describe what this means in terms of the play?

S.L.: The work is not physical for the sake of being physical. I don't have people throwing themselves around as they say their lines.

The main thing is to better illustrate the text. The comic characters, for example, lend themselves very much to this.

It is a visual play and my work is very much to take care of the meaning of the body in the environment, the meaning to the audience.

We are making pictures in a way and with our images and *tableaux* we emphasize the poetic aspects of the play — the poetry is what is physical for me.

D.G.: A lot is discovered about character when you consider relations in space, things like power or status even emotional relations.

How does this awareness of composing a picture affect your work?

D.G.: In some ways it's a release, something you can trust. I can relax into the text because I know the scene is standing on its own visually.

S.L.: The performing space is very minimal. We set up locations using only lights and music. The area is circular and the audience is very much included in this circle. They are a part of the play.

Despite theatrical interpretation, *Measure for Measure* remains an Elizabethan comedy: order is restored and everybody gets married. How do you reconcile this conservative ending with your contemporary sensibility?

D.G.: This play is very much a problem play, the ending is very pat, it is too neat and it makes you stop and wonder.

S.L.: For me the ending is about not escaping. People do get married, get put together, but they are not necessarily happy. They are compelled to work things out, to face themselves, to face their community. I don't know if you can call this a pat ending. The characters are faced with the consequences of their actions in public and in private. This is what makes the play so strong and relevant for me as a director.

Measure for Measure presented by Theatre 1774 at the Strathearn Center, 3680 Jeanne Mance from February 5-28.

New amendments threaten thousands

UI recipients face "bureau-cracks."

BY KATHY BUNKA

Former pattern-maker Guylaine Bourgeault is one of many unemployment insurance recipients who could lose their benefits under the proposed amendments to the unemployment insurance act. The changes to the insurance act were presented as Bill C-105 on December 3.

Bill 105 which is expected to come into effect by the end of March this year, will cut UI benefits from 60 per cent to 57 per cent of weekly wages and deny benefits to those who quit jobs.

"The proposed bill will make the rich richer and the poor poorer," said Bourgeault. "It's like the government doesn't want a middle class any more."

Justin de Beaucamp, press attaché for Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Employment and Immigration, is convinced that the government is heading in the right direction. The ministry is presenting the bill as a way to prevent people from abusing the system. "We as employers should not be responsible for paying for people who voluntarily choose to make themselves unemployed," he said.

But the bureaucracy beneath him is not convinced that Bill 105 will eradicate abuse of the system.

Union will publish handbook

Cres Pascucci, president of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union which includes 11,000 UI workers, said the changes will make the system more inaccessible than it is now. His department is going to publish a handbook to tell the general public what to do, and what not to do, when making an unemployment insurance claim.

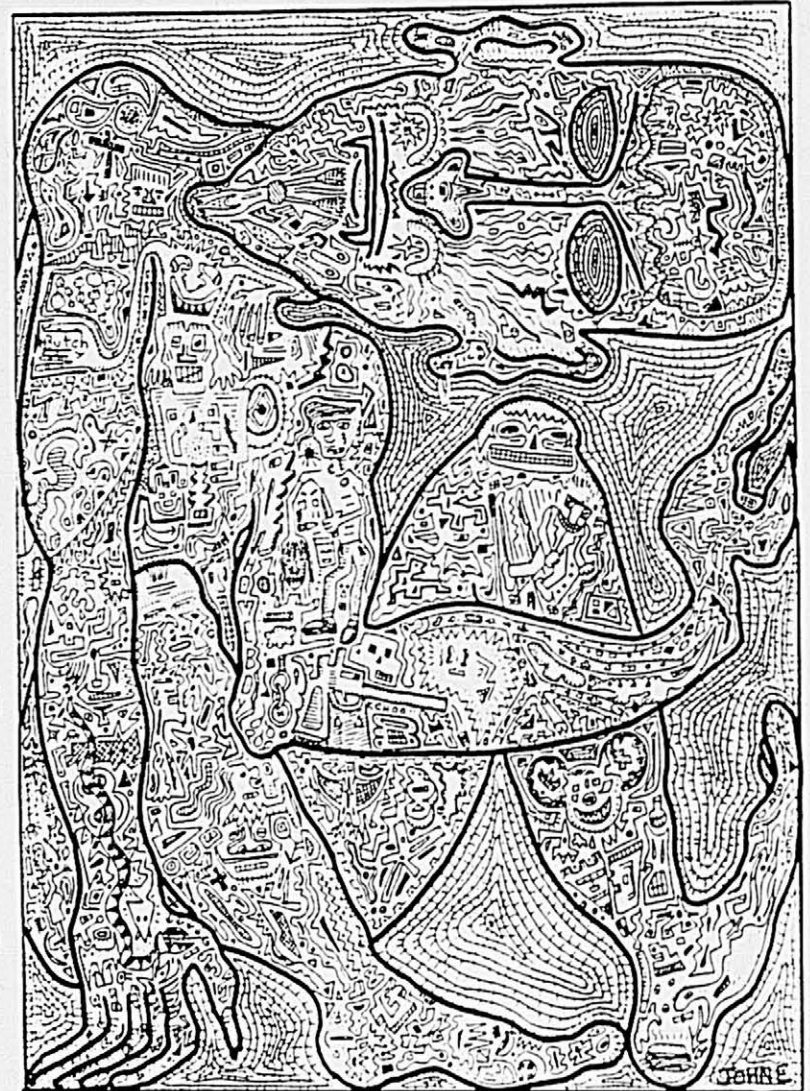
The government has not yet responded to this uncharacteristically defiant posture.

"The government is not concerned with what happens at the working level these days," said Pascucci.

Of particular concern to Bourgeault, Pascucci and about 50,000 others who participated in a protest march in downtown Montreal on Sunday afternoon, is the further restrictions on qualifying to receive benefits, as they will leave some needy and deserving people empty-handed.

Presently, the unemployment insurance act lists five "just causes" for voluntarily leaving one's place of employment. The just causes, including sexual or other harassment, obligation to move with a spouse, discrimination on the job, unhealthy or dangerous work conditions, or obligation to care for a child, according to the ministry, will remain the same.

But these criterion are not



enough. "People applying for unemployment insurance may not have a 'just cause', but they may have very good reasons for quitting," said Galtun Guerand, an employee for the Unemployment Action Group of Montreal.

Bourgeault says that the system did not work for her. During a very troublesome pregnancy, she followed her doctor's recommendation and took some time off from Teenflo Inc., her employer. Her employer refused to grant her maternity leave. A short while later, she miscarried and asked to resume the job. He said no.

"My boss said he had business to run. He said he was losing money and time. He lied to me and said he had found someone else," said Bourgeault.

Her boss informed the UI agents that she had voluntarily given up her position. They believed him, and Bourgeault is still trying to appeal her claim through bureaucratic channels. Under the proposed amendments to the act, cases like Bourgeault's would fall through the legislative cracks.

Strain on the system expected

William de Merchant, the legal service coordinator for the Movement Action Chomage de Montréal (MAC) sees cases like Bourgeault's all the time. Already MAC helps about 800 people every year who have had major problems dealing with UI.

"We're so saturated right now, I can't imagine how we're going to deal with the onslaught of cases the UI changes will bring into our office," he said.

He noted that to convince an UI claim worker that you had just cause

to quit your job is not that simple. People who make a claim based on the need to care for a child, for example, must prove to the assessor that alternatives to quitting, such as asking neighbours to care for the child and negotiating with employers about changing work schedules, have failed.

"The bottom line," said de Merchant, "is that no one is eligible for 'just cause'."

Bernard Valcourt has said repeatedly that the claimant will get the benefit of the doubt.

Bourgeault said that was not true in her case.

"The person at UI who decided I was ineligible said my story was fiction."

Pascucci is very much aware of this adversarial situation. He worked as a claim assessor in Toronto and noticed how intimidating the system was for people making claims. In cases where sexual harassment was involved, claimants shied away from giving details because they were certain the employer would be brought into the process.

Pascucci said that the booklet will tell people that in some cases, if the claim is adequate, it will not be necessary to confront the employer or co-worker.

Bourgeault welcomes the idea of an information booklet. "A lot of people don't know how to defend themselves," she said. "The laws are always changing and nobody tells you anything, they just ask you to fill out more forms."

"We need to take a course in dealing with the department of unemployment. Who's going to pay for this?" she asked. "Our boss?"

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Newman Centre, 3484 Peel, a warm, fun place to meet and worship. 5 pm Saturdays, 11 am Sundays. All are welcome. Come and join us. 398-4106.

Hey Y'all - LBGM meeting is being held Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 in room 435. Be there - it's always a big party!

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Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aymer (above Milton) on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7. A great way to find out about yourself & others.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbi-

ans, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) has re-started peer counselling. Anyone interested in LBGM and/or finding out about their sexuality can drop by Shalner Room 417, or call 398-6822. Hours are 7 to 10, Monday through Friday. We're here for you!

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AFTER ELEVEN YEARS, five albums and more than a little success, you'd think that Vancouver's folk festival act Spirit of the West would be a little bit reluctant to play small gigs and speak to fans. They are, after all, on a major label and have packed large halls and stadiums throughout Canada and Britain.

Not so. "Live concerts are our bread and butter," said singer and flute player Geoff Kelly after their show in the Shatner Ballroom last Saturday, "getting close to the audience is the most important thing."

Over the years they've moved from playing acoustic shows at local festivals and such events to, on this tour, playing packed houses all across Canada. In the beginning it was just John Mann, Geoff Kelly and J. Knutson, each sharing duties on guitar and vocals. When Knutson left after the first two albums, Hugh McMillan joined the band (adding his talents on guitar, mandolin and the rarely heard Chapman stick). Their 1989 release "Save this House" introduced Linda McRae's accordion and bass presence. On their latest disc, *Go Figure*, they have added full-time drummer Vince Ditrich, completing their transformation from Celtic-folk to richly-textured... well, let's say it...rock 'n roll.

This does not mean that Spirit of the West has lost their original Celtic flavour, or the social, political and cultural influences that shaped their earlier work. They see their development as an evolution. As Geoff said, they could write a "million more 'Home For a Rests'", but they would rather try out new directions.

We sat down with Geoff and Vince after Saturday's sold-out show for a twenty minute interview. We came away over an hour later having chatted about everything from Canada, to having children, to the faces drummers make when they're playing. Here's some of what we talked about.

DAILY PHOTO BY GLEN HARRIS

Beating the fame machine

Bumming smokes and anecdotes from Spirit of the West

BY ZACK TAYLOR AND MITCH HOGG



Spirit of the West singer and guitarist John Mann in the Shatner Ballroom last Saturday

is such a heavy scene with all the indie labels and all those smaller guys managing bands down there they all know that the big labels are watching. The whole musical climate has changed a lot, an upheaval in what we hear on top forty radio, from Vancouver to Halifax.

The touring machine

The Hollow Bodies tour — the idea of performing old stuff that you wouldn't normally be pushing — is very interesting.

Vince: People have requested a lot of songs that we simply can't play we have like sixty songs to choose from. This gives us the chance to play a lot of the old songs, as well as sprinkle in some of the new songs to see what needs to be mixed around, fixed, tweaked.

Geoff: It's been really successful. We did it in the west in October. We went to Winnipeg and back through to Victoria. We've only done it in the west, but we thought why don't we try it in eastern Canada. Every date has been sold out except the one in Buffalo.

[In unison] You played Buffalo?

Geoff: It was really good though, about two hundred people in a club. I think they were all a little preoccupied with the Superbowl.

The way you reworked some of the old songs in the concert tonight was surprising.

Geoff: There's no way that we're going to come out and do the exact album versions of some of the songs. We have Vince now and we feel that much more powerful than we were before. Things get reworked a bit, but I think they get stronger in the process.

Vince: Another part of it is that when you add the drums, you change the whole sound of the original four piece acoustic thing. With me in the back projecting this whole gargantuan sound it's very different.

Would you like to have tickets to see the Tempest?

Geoff: I'd love to, but we have to leave tomorrow morning. We really need a day off, you know I think we've only had one day off in... what?

Vince: Six months.

That's a hell of a lot of touring. Is that standard?

Vince: For us it is. The longer we're away, the harder it is on our families, so we try to condense it down to a bare minimum. Actually, we were driving here from Ottawa airport and I realized I had lost the float money! All gone! Thanks to me somebody has an envelope full of hundreds of dollars...

Oh Jesus. Are your families on this tour? I know Geoff's son Benjamin was born on tour in England...

Vince: No, no. The logistics of just getting ourselves to the show and taking care of ourselves is enough to really kill us, especially with kids and stuff. I've got one on the way I'm not a dad yet. This is my last real swing as a non-dad. Scared the pants off me when I found out. The turtle works, I guess.

The turtle symbol on the liner of Go Figure?

Vince: Yeah. It's a west coast Indian symbol for luck and fertility. And it works, believe me.

Folk evolution

What do you think of this new-found label in the media of being called "alternative"?

Geoff: I think it's a good analogy. Look at people like Neil Young or Elvis Costello who always keep you guessing. I think we've been changing just a little bit all along, but the jump between "Save this House" and "Go Figure" was quite massive. We would have gone further had it not been for the producer pulling us back. He felt we were trying to make album six before album five. Originally "D for Democracy" had no flute. In the next batch of songs there are a few songs that contain some of these elements. We want to try to keep a bit of what made us what we are. The attitude in the songs is as important as the instrumentation.

The new "Venice" song you played tonight was strong.

Geoff: Yeah, that fits nicely with what we've done.

Vince: At the same time, we don't want to be commercial puppets. We want to make the sort of music that we choose. We've found on tour that the very first time we play a new song, the audience stops and listens a bit. They have to listen to it a few times before they go "oh yeah" and decide how they're going to react.

Whither Canada?

What do you think it means to be a Canadian musician, or Canadian in general?

Geoff: I think it's kind of the ongoing search, I suppose. Canada is still young and we're still trying to figure that out. As a country we're earning our stripes in the world marketplace but we're certainly loved abroad. There's a tremendous amount of respect for Canadians to the extent where American people traveling in Europe will often buy a little Canadian pin to wear on their hat.

Vince: So that they can take our credit. [laughing]

Geoff: It's true. It's really, really true. People think of Canada as being young, yet we're trying to get things right. Some of the things Canada has done lately may be a bit questionable, like being involved in the Gulf War, but there are things we can learn from experiences like that.

There's a lot of bands like Nomeansno and DOA from Vancouver who have really built up a name. Skinny Puppy, the same. A huge, huge band in Europe. It's all through just going and working re-

ally hard and playing any gig that comes your way. Hopefully we're at the stage now where we can move to the next level. There's a lack of bands going over there and attempting it. You can literally go a month over there without hearing a Canadian band though we did play a festival in Glastonbury last year. Loreena McKennitt and the Barenaked Ladies were there.

Vince: I think there were four Canadian acts in all. Pretty well represented.

Geoff: It makes our festivals look puny. It would be neat to see more Canadians get established over there. You just have to work hard.

The schmoozontology fact

The Canadian government recently congratulated k.d. lang after she won an American Music Awards. How do you feel about this idea of American recognition being needed to legitimize Canadian musicians and performers?

Vince: With this schmoozontology, you've gotta know people in the hierarchy of the fame machine. These people are usually American. It's a sad fact of existence in this

business, but it is, unfortunately, a fact.

What do you think about Canadian content regulations in the Canadian media?

Vince: I think we have to have the protection. And although there is some media help, we have to be protected to save the people who would be completely engulfed. There is some mediocrity, because some things sneak through, but we as listeners just have to sit through and say "I like that, I like that, I don't like this." The rules give the bands who need a chance the ability to compete against the huge influx of dollars from major American record labels.

I'm surprised that more independent labels haven't sprung up in Canada because of CanCon. Is this a distance or a geography problem?

Geoff: A lot of bands have come up, especially on indie labels. A lot of major Canadian labels are watching very closely all the indie stuff. Once a record is made, it doesn't cost much of anything to put it out. The Waltons are a good example of this — wonderful record, great band and they made it themselves and Warner signed them up. That's why Toronto